

NOVAC

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA ASTRONOMY CLUB

NO. 103 • VOL. 22 • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002

Telescopes are the real stars at Stellafane

by Guy Brandenburg

Along with Brenda Corbin Jones, John and Glenna Avellone, Bill Burton and family, John and Bobbie Stewart, and Jerry Wolczanski—all members of either NOVAC and/or NCA, I attended this weekend's Stellafane convention in the beautiful countryside around Springfield, VT.

I had the audacity, or perhaps hubris, to enter two homemade scopes into optical competition, but did not win. I saw the mirror of the woman who did win the optical competition, and as far as I could tell it was *perfect* in the star test. I see now that mine are not. I really need to get better at collimation, since I lost a lot of points on that. It really helped me to get feedback from the judges, and to be able to look at that perfect mirror's star test. (At least mine are really, really smooth because of the use of rouge.) The viewing on Saturday was wonderful, and I found a number of new Herschel objects. At the Saturday evening presentation, I didn't win anything in the lottery, which is really too bad—they were giving away several sets of Televue eyepieces, including Naglers.

The only thing I "won" was a CD-ROM of variable stars, which I received because I was also representing the National Capital Astronomers, one of the older astronomy clubs in attendance. If I can figure out how to do so,

see "Stellafane" on page 3



John Dobson, David Levy, and others pose for photographs in front of Stellafane's Pink Clubhouse. Dobson, at 86, was the oldest person in attendance at the convention.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Where Are We?

Members:	600
Observers:	100?
Meetings:	50
ATM:	15
Outreach:	6 (regulars)

Where do you fit in?

Now is the time for all good Nomads to come to the aid of NOVAC and become volunteer leaders. We need Officers, Trustees, and appointees, to carry on (actually to make it better). Contact the nominating committee or e-mail me with your interests and I will see it gets to them. ekarch@karch.com ★



NOVAC President Ed Karch

NOTED WITHOUT COMMENT

